



Tetbury Rural District
Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.

1938.

Tetbury Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

DR. H. F. W. ADAMS.

Herewith my 18th Annual Report for the District. The general health of the district has been good and there were no epidemics, and only three cases of Tuberculosis were notified throughout the year.

Steady advance was made in Housing and all Sanitary matters.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	31,781
Population (mid 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	5,948
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938)	...	...	...	...	...	1,664
(including shops with domestic accommodation, farm houses, college, etc.)						
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£24,596
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£107

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		M.	F.	Total
LIVE BIRTHS	...	51	39	90
Legitimate	...	49	38	87
Illegitimate	...	2	1	3

Birth Rate (R.G.) 15.1

STILL BIRTHS	...	2	1	3
Legitimate	...	2	1	3
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.7

DEATHS	35	37	72
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Death Rate (R.G.) 12.1

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES - Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000
births:—

Legitimate, 45.1; Illegitimate, Nil; Total, 44.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
„ „ Measles	„	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

UNEMPLOYED (12th June, 1939) 21

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1938.

DISEASE.	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria ... ..	...	1
Influenza	1	...
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	...	1
Cancer	2	8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	7
Heart Disease	12	13
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	1
Bronchitis	3	...
Pneumonia	1	2
Digestive Diseases	1	...
Nephritis	1	1
Congenital Causes, etc.	1	...
Senility	4	2
Other violence ... ..	...	1
Other defined Diseases	3	...
All causes	35	37

As will be seen from the preceding figures and statistics no abnormal or excessive death rate occurred in 1938.

CANCER: ten; an increase but in view of the general prevalence of the disease, not serious (5 in 1937, 14 in 1936).

INFLUENZA: one death (male) was recorded.

DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM number 37, out of a total of 72—the usual percentage.

DEATH RATE:—12.1 is not at all a bad figure although it is above that for 1937, 11.1, and England and Wales, 11.6.

BIRTH RATE:—15.1 is a good figure, being the same as that for England and Wales in 1938.

INFANT MORTALITY:—44.4 is also a good figure: that for 1937 was 53.6, and the figure for England and Wales for 1938 (the year under review) is 53.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL.

This extended hospital, with up-to-date accommodation, continues to do good work: there is ample accommodation for the district.

Fever cases are accommodated at the Cirencester Isolation Hospital.

Accommodation for Smallpox cases is provided at Elmstone, near Hardwicke, on the Cheltenham-Tewkesbury road.

There is no hospital accommodation for Tuberculosis, or for children.

Maternity cases are dealt with at the converted P.L. Institution in Tetbury, which is doing extremely valuable work.

The Tuberculosis cases are accommodated in Standish Sanatorium.

The nursing in the district is carried out by Nurses of the District Nursing Association, supervised by a whole-time County Nurse.

Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out in the laboratories of Gloucester General Hospital.

Outfits for taking specimens can be supplied to practitioners by the Medical Officer of Health.

The Public Health Staff for the district consists of one Medical Officer of Health (full-time) and one Sanitary Inspector (full-time).

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1899, Bye-laws.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF

THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

TETBURY.—The drought which is clearly indicated in details of rainfall given in this report effected the boreholes considerably, the pumping levels being lower than at any time since the installation of the present plant and it was not until the latter part of the year that they completely recovered. I would also mention that if it had not been for an extra 30 ft. of suction pipe which was added during the overhaul of the No. 1 pump the previous year, there would have been a serious shortage of water for a considerable period.

A great deal of work has been done during the year in connection with the testing of the water mains and service pipes for leakages. All the testing of the water mains and service pipes has been done at night and three defective mains and four service connections have been repaired, with the result that the Market Place and Northfield are no longer without water during the week although the pressure is not always sufficient. In this direction the Parochial Committee are considering the erection of a water tower at the Tetbury Waterworks and Messrs. Parker Pearson & Ross Hooper, Civil Engineers of Chippenham, Wilts., have been appointed as the Council's Consulting Engineers with regard to the matter. It is hoped that the work will be commenced early in the year.

The repairs of mains and services has had a very noticeable effect upon the daily consumption, which is now approximately 34,000 gallons as against 39,000 gallons during the previous year. The number of new connections to the Council's water mains during the year was 52.

Two samples of water were taken from the waterworks during the year and both were found to be satisfactory. The Council has agreed to take four samples per year in the future under the new scheme arranged by the County Council, whereby samples may be analysed by the County Analyst at a considerably reduced cost.

1637 inspections were made during the year in connection with water supplies and waterworks.

TETBURY PUMPING STATION.

Engines.	No.	B.H.P.	Pumps.	No.	Delivery
Ruston & Hornsby			Harland 8-stage		9,000
Horizontal Crude			Centrifugal		gallons
Oil	1	20	Pump	1	per hour
Ditto	1	28	Harland 11-stage		6,000
			Centrifugal		gallons
			Pump	1	per hour

DIDMARTON, LONG NEWNTON & SHIPTON MOYNE.—These Parishes are supplied by the West Gloucestershire Water Co., and the supply has been satisfactory during the year.

CHERINGTON.—No shortage has occurred during the year.

ASHLEY.—Culkerton still enjoys an adequate supply of water from the Rodmarton Estate and there has been no shortage.

AVENING.—The village has a standpost supply which has remained satisfactory during the year. The Stroud Water Co. now supply a large house and 2 cottages in this parish.

WESTONBIRT with LASBOROUGH.—Most of the parish is supplied by the Westonbirt School and has been satisfactory during the year.

BOXWELL with LEIGHTERTON.—This parish is still without an adequate supply of water, although it is gratifying to note that Mr. F. O. J. Huntley of Boxwell Court has sunk a borehole and is supplying parts of Boxwell with water.

RAINFALL AT THE CHIPPING, TETBURY.

Altitude approximately 385 feet above sea level,

Month	Total	Greatest rainfall in 24 hours.		No. of days with .01 or more.	No. of days with .04 or more.
		inches	date		
January ...	3.135	.50	17th	5	15
February ...	.86	.34	27th	1	5
March ...	.27	.12	1st	1	3
April ...	.175	.12	23rd	1	3
May ...	1.475	.36	30th	5	7
June ...	1.86	.51	1st	0	6
July ...	2.375	.59	15th	3	10
August ...	2.61	.56	5th	5	10
September ...	2.93	1.70	19th	2	5
October ...	5.25	.95	1st	2	17
November ...	3.41	.62	26th	4	13
December ...	2.63	.86	14th	1	12
	26.98			30	106

RAINFALL AT SHIPTON MOYNE WATERWORKS.

Altitude approximately 320 feet above sea level.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
January ...	3.50	2.37	2.88	.80	3.97	4.69	3.75
February ..	.07	2.83	.32	3.07	2.48	4.99	1.13
March ...	2.35	3.51	2.29	.81	2.40	4.27	.26
April ...	2.85	1.24	1.95	4.91	2.06	2.99	.20
May ...	6.10	2.14	1.06	1.36	1.02	2.42	2.19
June ...	1.36	1.78	2.49	3.94	2.26	1.51	1.77
July ...	1.99	1.90	1.97	.91	5.29	2.61	1.94
August	2.92	.97	2.40	2.36	.54	.79	3.13
September	3.59	3.53	2.24	5.50	3.44	3.01	3.38
October...	5.40	3.03	1.89	6.07	1.75	3.82	5.09
November	2.25	.73	1.33	6.25	4.13	1.49	3.49
December	1.27	.69	6.45	3.76	3.37	1.99	3.34
	33.65	24.78	27.27	29.74	32.71	34.58	29.67

I am indebted to Mr. J. Reade of Tetbury and Mr. H. S. Shinner, Engineer and Secretary to the West Gloucestershire Water Company, who supplied the information regarding rainfalls in this district.

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE.

TETBURY MAIN SEWER OUTFALL.

Seven of the ten irrigation beds have been reconditioned during the year and the four sludge beds have been relaid. An extra sludge bed has been constructed and is working satisfactorily. The remaining irrigation beds should be reconstructed in the near future and the need for a proper store at the Sewage Works is becoming more urgent.

Six tons of Alumino Ferric were used at these works during the year.

Two samples of sewage effluent were taken and found to be very satisfactory. The Council have decided

to take two samples per year in future under the County Scheme.

These works are under frequent supervision and are kept in good condition.

TETBURY DRAINAGE.

The Tetbury Drainage System is working satisfactorily and no new sewer has been laid during the year, but 51 new connections have been made.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversion of privy vaults to earth closets	...	13
Conversion of privy vaults to water closets	...	1
Conversion of earth closets to water closets	...	—
New water closets	... ..	69
New earth closets	... ..	2

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The nuisance found to exist at Avening arising from the discharge of house drains into the brook has been abated except for one drain which is connected with the urinals of the Church of England School, and I understand that this matter is receiving attention.

No other nuisances have arisen during the year in connection with rivers and streams.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Scavenging in the parish of Tetbury has been carried out as in previous years with the exception of the number of collections per week. In renewing the scavenging contract the Committee agreed to collect from the whole of the town twice weekly whereas previously parts of the town were only collected once. This arrangement has increased the cost of scavenging in the parish but is a great improvement on the old system.

The refuse tip is under constant supervision and as far as possible is kept tidy and free from vermin.

Avening Parish Council is responsible for refuse collection in that parish and a new tip has had to be found. This is situated well away from the village and appears satisfactory.

During the year 45 inspections of refuse tips and collections have been made.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

It has not been necessary to take action in connection with this matter during the year.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	26	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' Premises)			

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Bakehouses	...	...	5	Painters and Decorators	2
Butchers	...	...	4	Bootmakers	2
Laundries	...	...	4	Timber Merchants	1
Gas Works	...	...	1	Hairdressers	3
Tailors	...	...	2	Stone Mason Yard	2
Motor Engineers	...	...	8	Saddler	2
Wheelwrights	...	...	1	Printing Works	1
Blacksmiths	...	...	7	Millers	1
Builders	...	...	2	Metal Workers	1
Carpenters	...	...	9	Quarries	1

SANITARY INSPECTION.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	570
Houses, Inspections of, under Public Health Acts					344
Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	358
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	110
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	358
Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	7

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No smoke nuisances have occurred during the year.

BUG ERADICATION.

It has not been found necessary to take any action with regard to this matter during the year.

SHOPS ACT 1936.

Some 10 inspections of shop premises under the above Act were made during the year and in most cases the provisions of the Act were complied with.

The majority of the shops in this Rural District are managed without assistance and are premises where the shop and house are combined.

SCHOOLS.

PARISH	C of E or County School	Atten- dance (appx)	Closet Type	Boys	Girls	In- fants	Disposal of excreta	Water Supply
Avening ...	C of E	92	Pail	2	4	1	Weekly	Village Supply
Boxwell with Leighterton	County	24	Pail	3	6	0	Weekly	Rain Water
Cherington	C of E	21	Pail	3	1	0	Weekly	Village Supply
Didmarton	C of E	41	W.C.	2	6	0	—	Main Supply
Kingscote...	C of E	42	Pail	2	2	1	Weekly	Spring
Long Newnton ...	C of E	32	Pail	2	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Shipton Moyne ...	C of E	35	Pail	1	2	0	Weekly	Main Supply
Tetbury ...	C of E	106	W.C.	8	4	4	—	Main Supply
Westonbirt with Lasborough	C of E	14	W.C.	1	1	0	—	None

CAMPING SITES.

No applications have been received for permission to use sites for camping purposes in the district.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(a) 1.	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts]	...	...	...	...	...	...	453
2.	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	905
(b) 1.	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-section (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 and 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
2.	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	452
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses [exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	276

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	45
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a)	By Owners	...
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936.*

PART II.—REPAIRS, DEMOLITION, CLOSURE.

(1) Repairs (Sec. 9, 10 and 16).

(a)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
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(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices —						
(1) By Owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Demolition (Secs. 11 and 13).						
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	2
(3) Closure of portions of buildings (Sec. 12).						
(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

PART III.—CLEARANCE, RE-DEVELOPMENT & IMPROVEMENT AREAS.

(1) Clearance Area Declarations made, by Council	...	Nil
(2) Clearance Orders submitted and awaiting confirmation by Minister	...	Nil
(3) " " " " rejected by Minister	...	Nil
(4) " " " " confirmed by Minister	...	Nil
(5) Re-development Area Declarations made by Council	...	Nil
(6) Re-development Plans submitted, and awaiting confirmation by Minister	...	Nil
(7) Re-development Plans submitted, and rejected by Minister	...	Nil
(8) " " " " confirmed " "	...	Nil
(9) Improvement Area Declarations made by Council	...	Nil

PART IV. OVERCROWDING.

1 (a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	7
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	48

2	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2
3	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	20
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...					122½

4. PARTICULARS RELATING SPECIALLY TO AGRICULTURAL POPULATION.

Action under Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of houses provided for members of agricultural population to relieve overcrowding, and subject to Ministry and County Council Grants under Secs. 108 and 115 (3)	...	...	...	15
(2)	Number of houses provided for members of the agricultural population, exclusive of those for the relief of overcrowding, and subject to grant from the County Council under Sec. 115 (2)	...	...	Nil	

Action under Housing of the Rural Workers' Acts, 1926 & 1931

(1)	Number of houses or other buildings dealt with by repair or conversion	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of repaired or reconstructed dwelling-houses provided as a result of the above action	...			13

COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council have 92 Council Houses situated in the following parishes :—

Ashley	...	...	...	2
Avening	...	...	...	12
Boxwell-with-Leighterton...				5
Tetbury 1919	...	...		12
„ 1924	...	...		12
„ 1936	...	...		49
Total	...			<u>92</u>

All the 49 Council Houses erected for slum clearances, overcrowding and aged persons were completed for occupation early in the year, and much work was entailed in getting the Contractor to wind up the small details which were not completed during the year. All the tenants are now settled down in their new homes and appear to be very happy and contented.

Six of the twelve 1919 Council Houses in Tetbury have been provided with "Selfix" Interoven grates in place of the original Yorkshire type grates, and the Council have agreed to replace the remaining six in the new year.

Four of the twelve Council Houses in the parish of Avening have been provided with Concrete footpaths, which is a great improvement.

Some 351 inspections for Council House repairs and maintenance have been made during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Number of Plans approved during the year—40.

New dwellings, together with miscellaneous buildings were distributed among the various parishes as follows :—

Parish	New Dwellings	Alterations and additions to existing buildings	Garages	Miscellaneous
Ashley	—	4	—	—
Avening	3	3	—	—
Didmarton	—	1	—	5
Long Newton	—	3	—	1
Leighterton	1	2	1	2
Kingscote	—	1	1	1
Shipton Moyne	2	1	—	—
Tetbury	8	8	5	4
Tetbury Upton	4	2	—	2
Total	18	25	7	15

Number of inspections in connection with new buildings, etc. :—

Footings	...	...	27
Damp proof courses	...	...	16
Intermediate inspections	...	...	624
Drain Tests	...	...	80
Final inspections	...	...	42

RAG & FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1923.

There are no premises in this area covered by the provisions of the Act.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS.

Earlier in the year the Council agreed to employ a rat catcher under the County Scheme to destroy the vermin which infested the Tetbury Refuse Tip and four times during the year the tip was baited, with excellent results. I may add that during the year the County have reorganised the scheme, inasmuch as the rat catchers have now become the employees of the County Council, and that any complaints whatsoever regarding vermin from householders will be visited by the appropriate officers and the necessary advice given.

The County Council is responsible for the administration of these Acts.

MILK SUPPLY.

Parish	Producers & Retailers	Producers	Retail Purveyors	Total
Ashley ...	1	2	—	3
Avening ...	3	4	—	7
Beverston ...	2	2	—	4
Boxwell-with-Leighterton	6	2	—	8
Cherington ...	1	3	—	4
Didmarton ...	2	3	—	5
Kingscote ...	—	4	—	4
Long Newnton ...	2	5	—	7
Ozleworth ...	1	3	—	4
Shipton Moyne...	—	2	—	2
Tetbury ...	3	2	2	7
Tetbury Upton ...	6	9	—	15
Westonbirt-with-Lasborough	—	1	—	1
	27	42	2	71

Number of premises carrying on the trade	...	71
„ „ registered during the year	...	6
Licence to produce Tuberculin Tested milk	...	9
„ „ Accredited milk	... ..	15
Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected	...	51
„ „ „ recorded and tabulated		6
Approximate number of dairy cows	... ..	1761

The occupiers of 7 registered premises have been notified of the following defects during the year :—

Defective drainage	...	10
Defective floors	... ..	8
Insufficient lighting	...	3
Defective walls	... ..	2
Manure heaps to remove		2
Lime washing	... ..	6

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD.

There are two slaughter-houses in the district, one of which is licensed and the other registered.

41 inspections of slaughter houses, retail shops and premises where food is prepared were made during the year and all were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

There are 12 licensed slaughtermen in this district all of which are licensed until December, 1939.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	83	1	11	136	69
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	5	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	6 02	—	—	1.46	—
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	2	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis...	2.41	100.00	—	—	—

The following diseased and unsound meat was found to be unfit for food and condemned and destroyed.

Meat	557 lbs.
Beasts lungs...	3 No.
„ livers ...	4 „
„ heads ...	3 „
Sheep livers...	2 „

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act is administered by the Gloucestershire County Council.

PETROL & CARBIDE LICENCES.

Licences granted in connection with this matter during the year totalled 36.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during 1938 was 19. Of these—

7 were Pneumonias : one was admitted to hospital ; there were 3 deaths (1 M. and 2 F.).

6 Scarlet Fevers occurred : 3 females, aged 12, 17 and 21, and 3 males, aged $1\frac{1}{2}$, 13 and 22. All were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Five cases of Diphtheria occurred : two very severe, requiring tracheotomy : one, a female aged 3, died. All were treated in hospital.

The age incidences were—

M. Nil.

F. $2\frac{1}{2}$, 3, 5, 38 and 45.

There was also one case of Puerperal Pyrexia treated in hospital, which also developed pneumonia.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurred in 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Three new cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1938 : 3 females, aged 23, 25 and 20, all pulmonary.

These were all admitted to a Sanatorium.

One female pulmonary death occurred.

